



*Chosen to Lead
Aging & Disability Services Programs*

Meet **Kathy Leitch**

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Kathy Leitch, assistant secretary for the Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), is a nationally-recognized administrator in her field with more than 28 years of experience.

In 2000, Leitch was appointed assistant secretary for the Aging and Adult Services Administration which was expanded and realigned in 2002 into Aging and Disability Services.

Under Leitch's leadership, Washington state has been a national leader in protecting vulnerable adults. Adult Protective Services and the Complaint Resolution Unit investigate and take appropriate action in thousands of reported cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults living at home or in licensed facilities. ADSA's program of inspections and rule enforcement at nursing homes, boarding homes and adult family homes is one of the nation's best.

"As the Baby Boomers age and the number of Washington residents over 65 doubles in the next two decades, we need to continue to stay on course to protect our vulnerable neighbors, friends and relatives," said Leitch. "It's just the right thing to do."

For the eligible people with disabilities that ADSA serves, Leitch is unwavering in assisting them to live their lives in the community. For those who choose to live in one of the five DSHS Residential Habilitation Centers, Leitch is dedicated to providing the best possible care.

"Everyone with disabilities deserves to live with dignity and respect," said Leitch. "I expect nothing less."

Leitch's career has mirrored her beliefs. As director of the Home and Community Services Division of ADSA in the 1990's, Leitch helped increase the home and community based options for persons with disabilities. She also significantly reduced the number of Medicaid residents in nursing homes.

In recognition of her expertise, Leitch was elected president of the National Association of State Units on Aging in 2005. In 2001, she received the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award.

Leitch earned her master's degree from the University of Washington in 1974.